# 第1話
## CHAPTER 1

# 蝕まれた花園
## -Parasite School-

SCENARIO: SUIREN　　ART: KOZUKI KANNA

# CONTENTS


## 1. MAIN STORY

16 PAGES TOTAL. INCLUDES DIALOGUE AND SOUND EFFECTS. COVERS THE MAIN STORY.

## 2. NON-LETTER VERSION

NO DIALOGUE OR SOUND EFFECTS. THE ILLUSTRATIONS AND POTRAYALS CAN BE ENJOYED ON THEIR OWN.

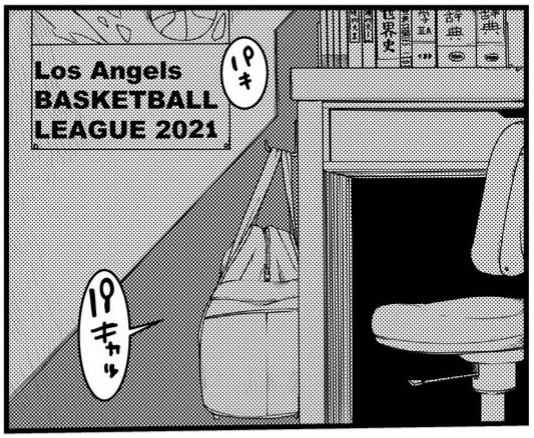
## 3. BONUS SHORT STORY

ALSO PUBLISHED ON SOCIAL MEDIA. CONTENT DEPICTS THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE PROTAGONIST, MAO'S OLDER BROTHER, ON HIS LITTLE SISTER'S BEHAVIORS.

## 4. ET CETERA

COLLECTION OF THUMBNAILS, ICONS AND MORE FROM THIS WORK.


2024/5/24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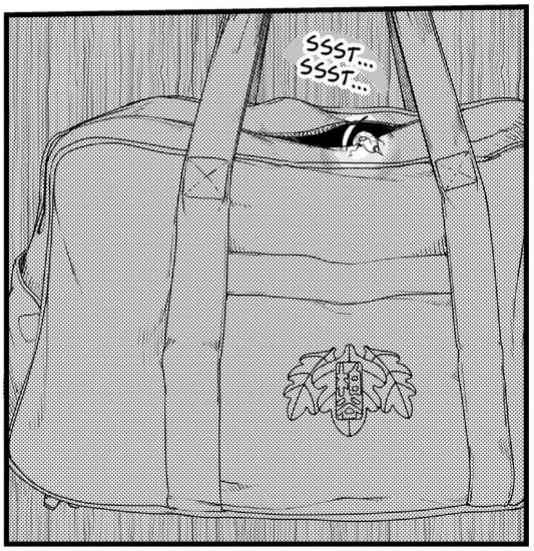
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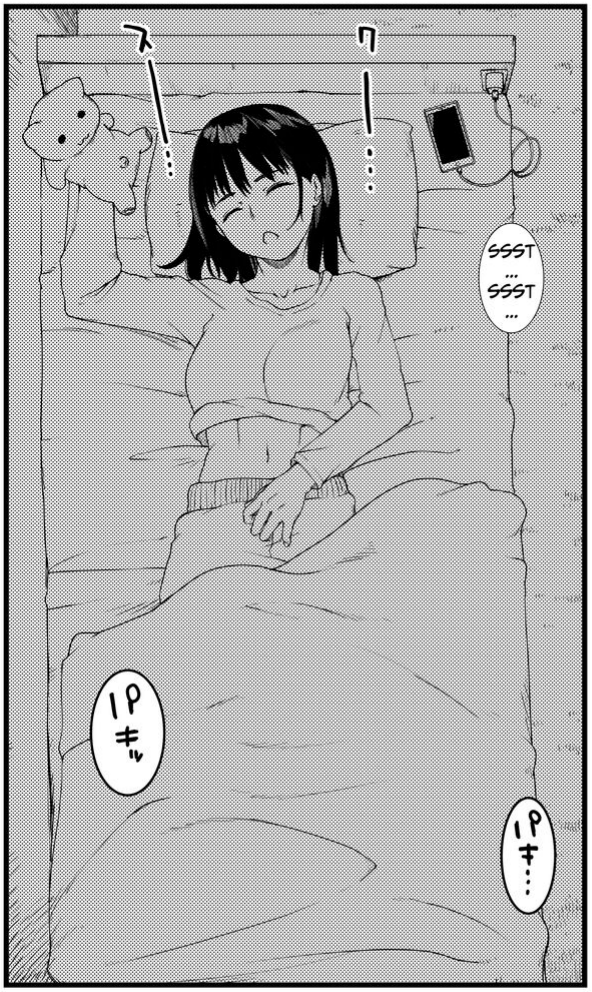
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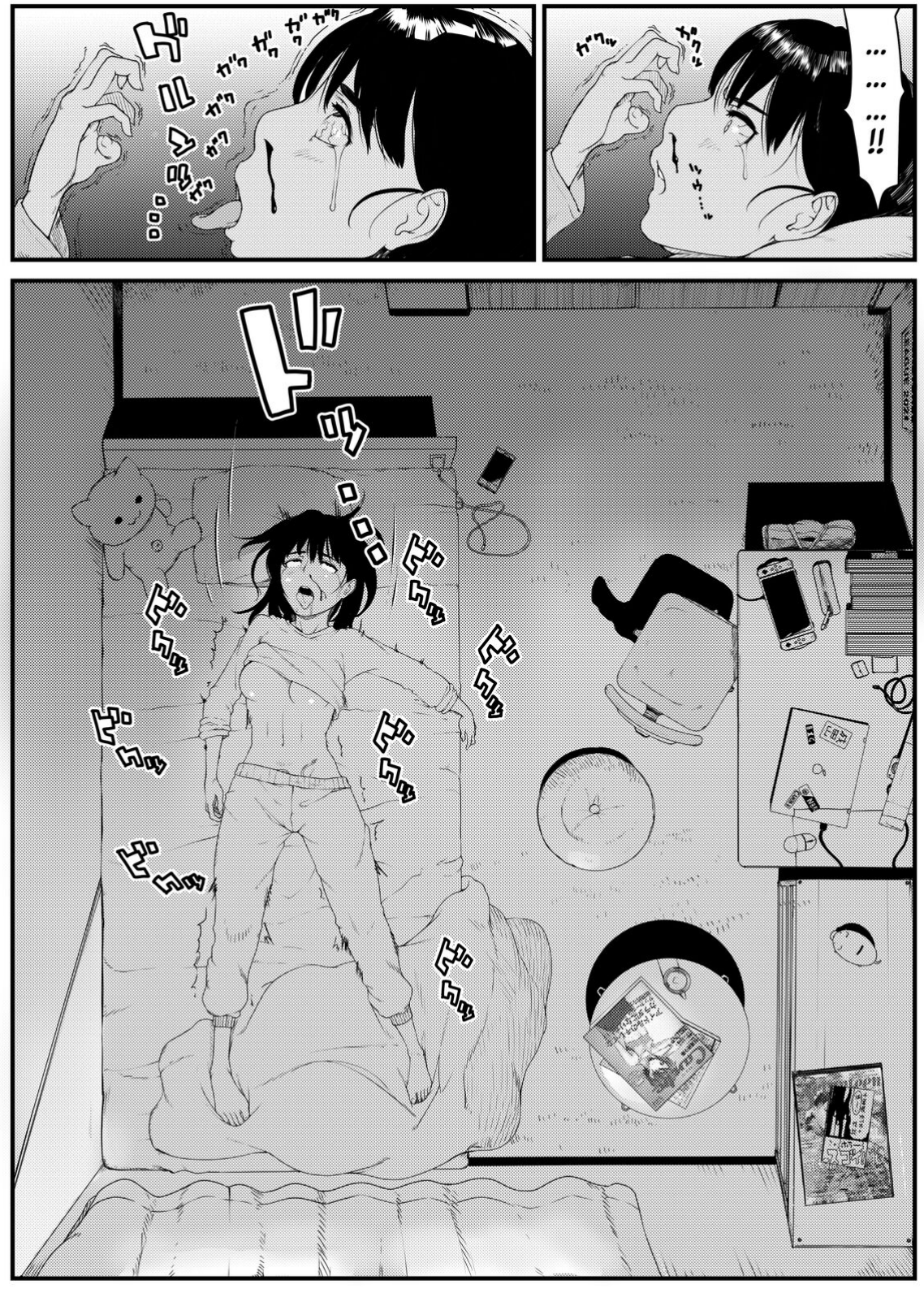
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BEEP BEEP!
ALARM 5:30
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BEEP BEEP!
WOAH... NOSE-BLEED...
MY BEDHEAD IS ALL OVER THE PLACE...
WHAT IS THIS ...?
FEELS LIKE I JUST HAD A SCARY DREAM...
HMM... I JUST CAN'T REMEMBER...
WELL WHATEVER!
OH MY, YOU'RE EATING A LOT THIS MORNING, MIKI.
SOMEHOW I'M FEELING KINDA HUNGRY...
MOM, CAN I HAVE MORE OF THIS?
OH MY, OH MY, HEHE... YOU SURE ARE GROWING FAST.
HANG ON... UAAHH!! IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE!?
I'M SO GONNA BE LATE FOR SCHOOL! BYE MOM, I'M OFF NOW!!

GOTTA GO FAST—!
SASAYAMA MIKI.
BASKETBALL CLUB CAPTAIN. BRIGHT PERSONALITY, WELL-LIKED.
...
...HUH?
WHY AM I ALREADY FEELING HUNGRY NOW?
AH, GEEZ!
WE'RE IN A HURRY OVER HERE!
THREE&SEVEN
24h
SAL CHICKEN
AL-RIGHT!
DING DONG!
DING DONG!
GOT'GO FAS' NO! (GOTTA GO FAST NOW)
NOM!
NOM!

THEN... ON THE NEXT PAGE, IN YEAR 1917...
THE FAMOUS REVOLUTION CAUSED THE EMPEROR OF THE TIME TO...
WOAH...
...THEN, AFTER PROCESSING THIS FUNCTION, IT WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS.
GRR...
THE LIMIT OF THE NUMBER SEQUENCE DERIVED FROM THIS IS...
AL-RIGHT, NOW FOR THE NEXT LINE...
CAN I HAVE SOMEONE TRANSLATE THIS? TODAY IS THE 7TH DAY OF THE MONTH ALREADY...
SO HUN-GRY...
AH——... CLASS'S FINALLY FINISHED...
THIS LUNCH BOX WASN'T ENOUGH FOR ME ANYWAY...
LET'S HAVE ONE FINAL PIECE OF CHICKEN BEFORE CLUB ACTIVITIES...
SENPAI!
MIKI-SENPAI!
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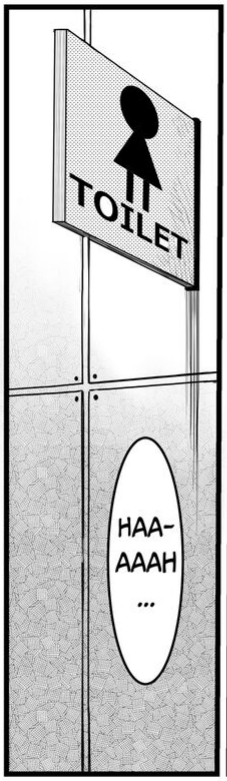
OH? YOUR APPETITE'S BEEN GROWING LATELY?
I-I'M FEELING REALLY HUNGRY... SO CHICKEN...
OH NICE, WHAT ARE YOU EATING?
むにゅっ♡
HA-HA... GEEZ, YOU'RE SO SILLY!

SENPAI! THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
NOM! NOM! NOM!
MAO ...
IMURA MAO.
MIKI'S JUNIOR. COURAGEOUS, KIND PERSONALITY.


TOILET
HAA-AAAH ...

AFTER CLUB ACTIVI-TIES
SENPAI! LET'S DO THIS!
SORRY! I'M GOING TO THE TOILET FOR A BIT!

SENPAI, COULD YOU JOIN ME FOR SOME EXTRA TRAINING AFTER OUR CLUB TIME?
ALL GOOD! BUT PUT SOME REAL EFFORT IN, OKAY?
NOW, LET'S START THE TRAIN-ING!
ROGER!

AH.
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I STOPPED FEELING HUNGRY...
WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT...
BU-RR-RP!

UHM ...

THE TRAIN- ING ...

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SEN- PAI... YOU ARE TAK- ING SO LONG ...

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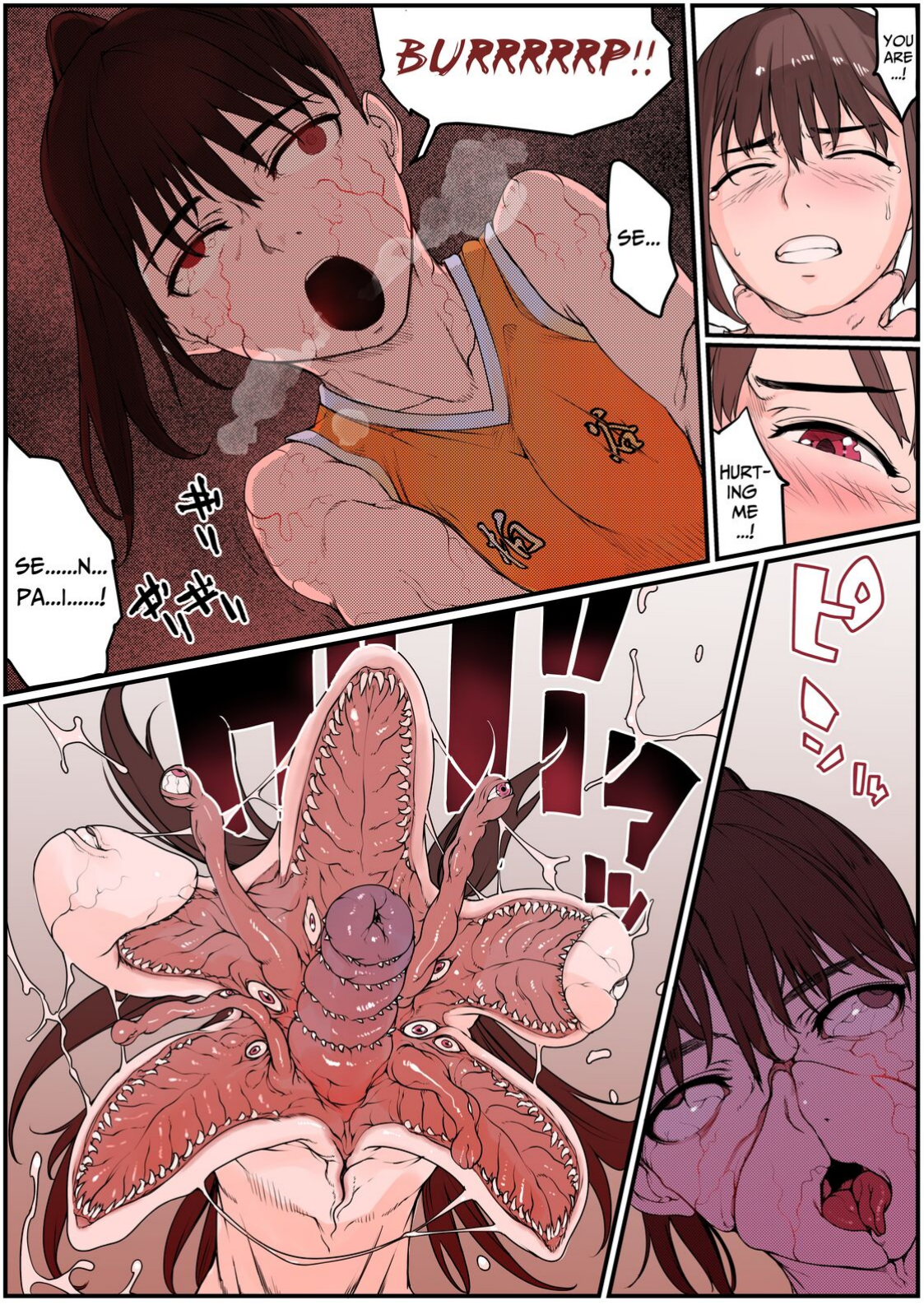
BURRRRRP!!
SE...
YOU ARE ...!
HURT-ING ME ...!
SE.....N... PA...I.....!
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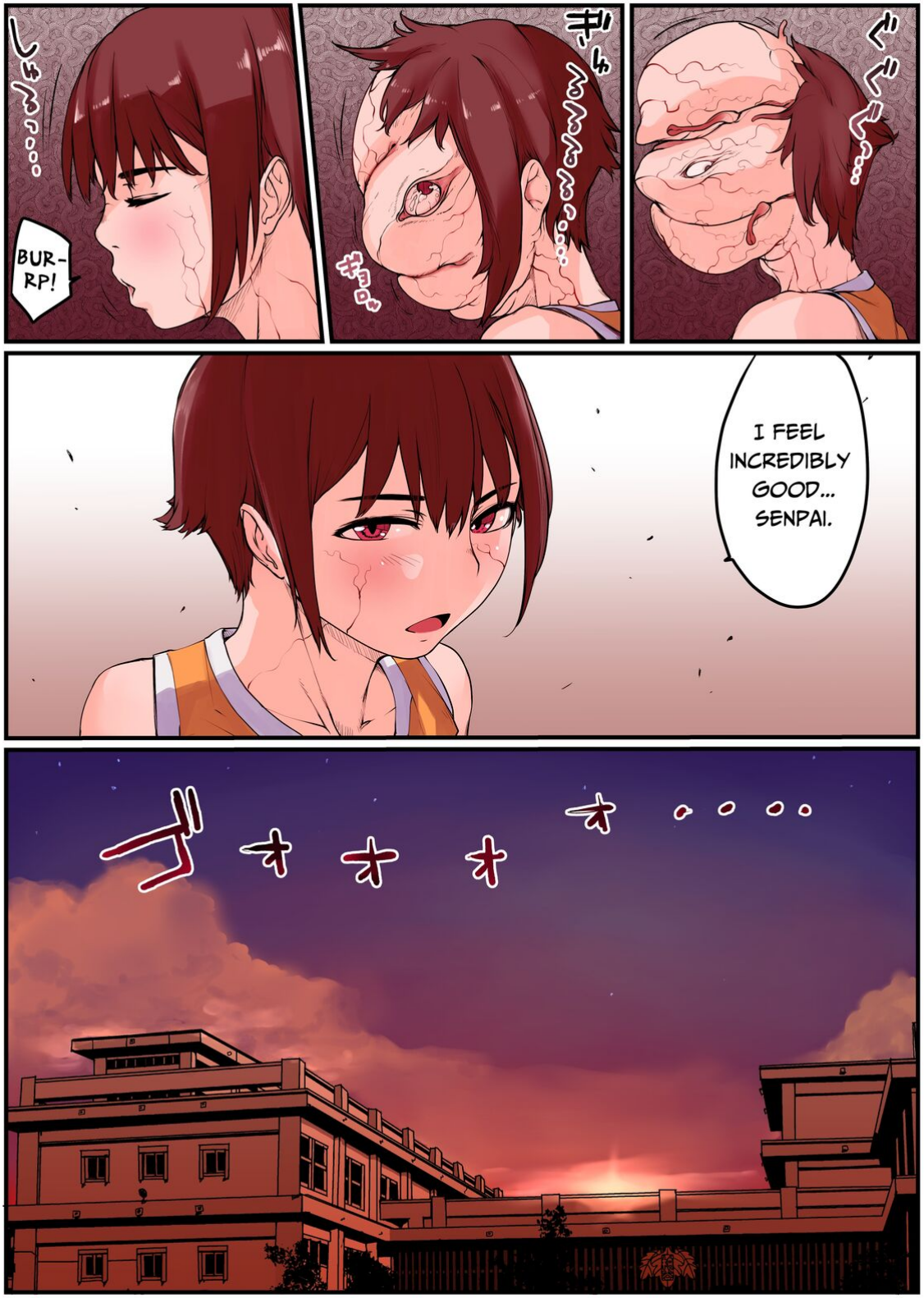
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しゅ～…
BUR-RP!
I FEEL INCREDIBLY GOOD... SENPAI.
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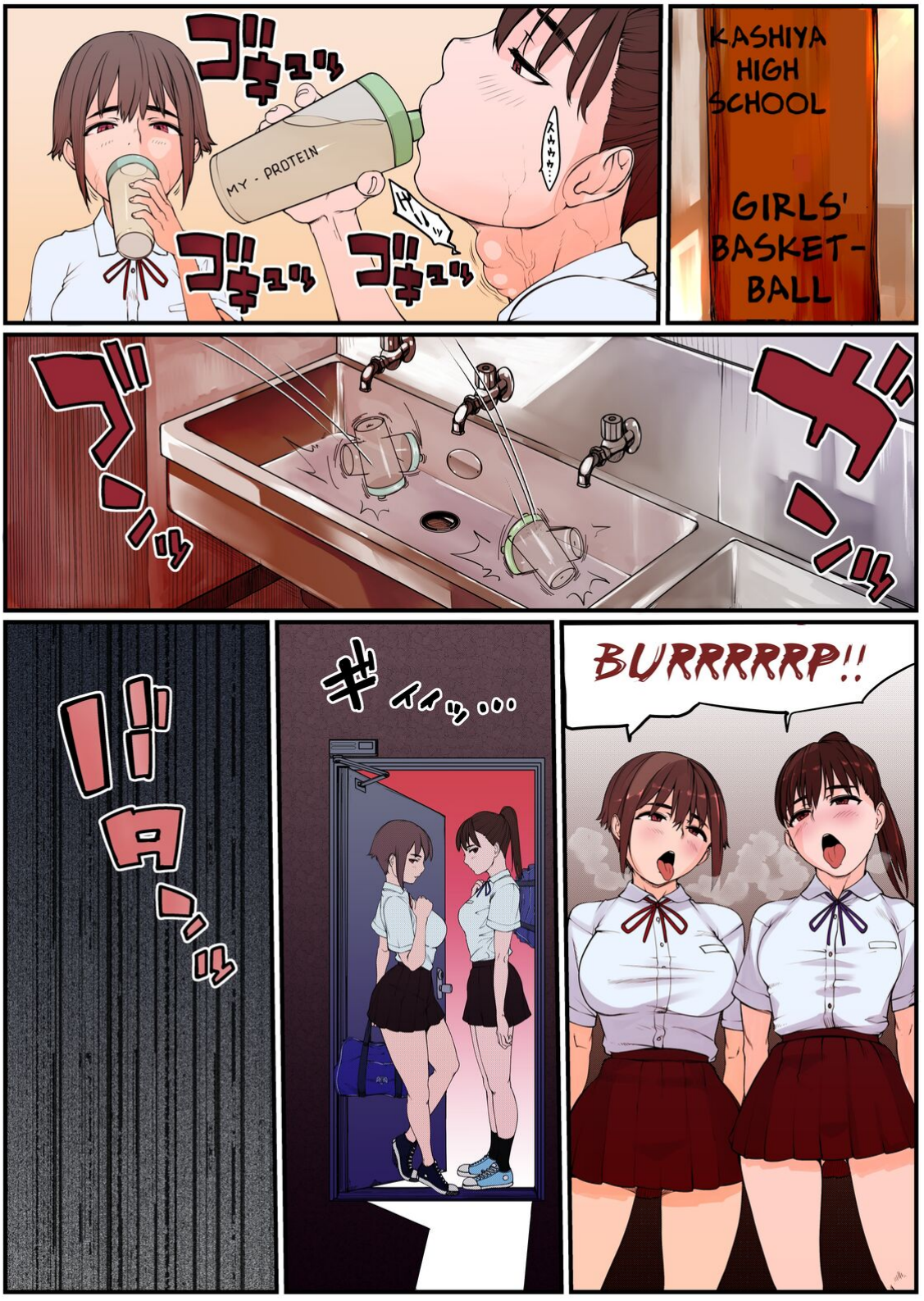
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KASHIYA HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS' BASKET-BALL
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BURRRRRP!!
ギィィッ…
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# 『蝕まれた花園 -Parasite School-』 CHAPTER 1

SCENARIO: SUIREN　　ART: KOZUKI KANNA

# 第1話
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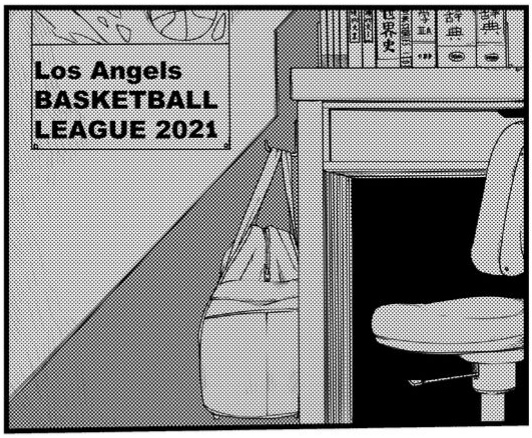
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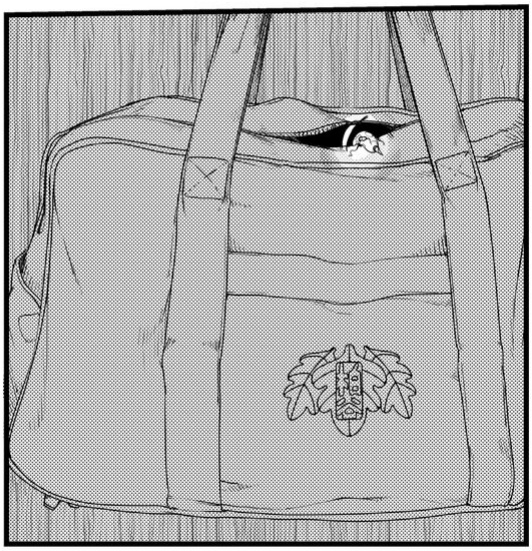
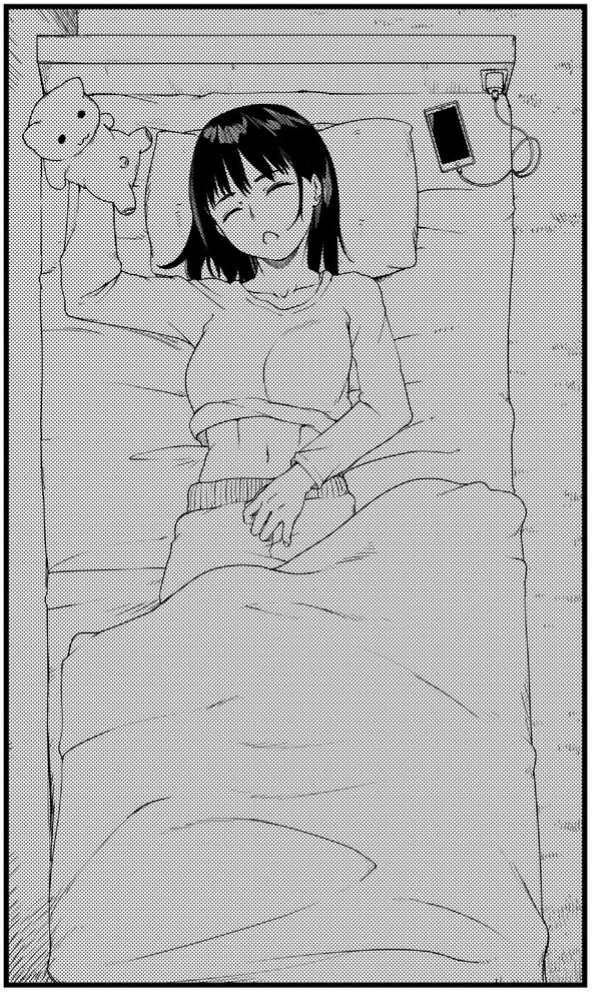
BASKETBALL
LEAGUE 2021





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5:30

THREE&SEVEN
24h
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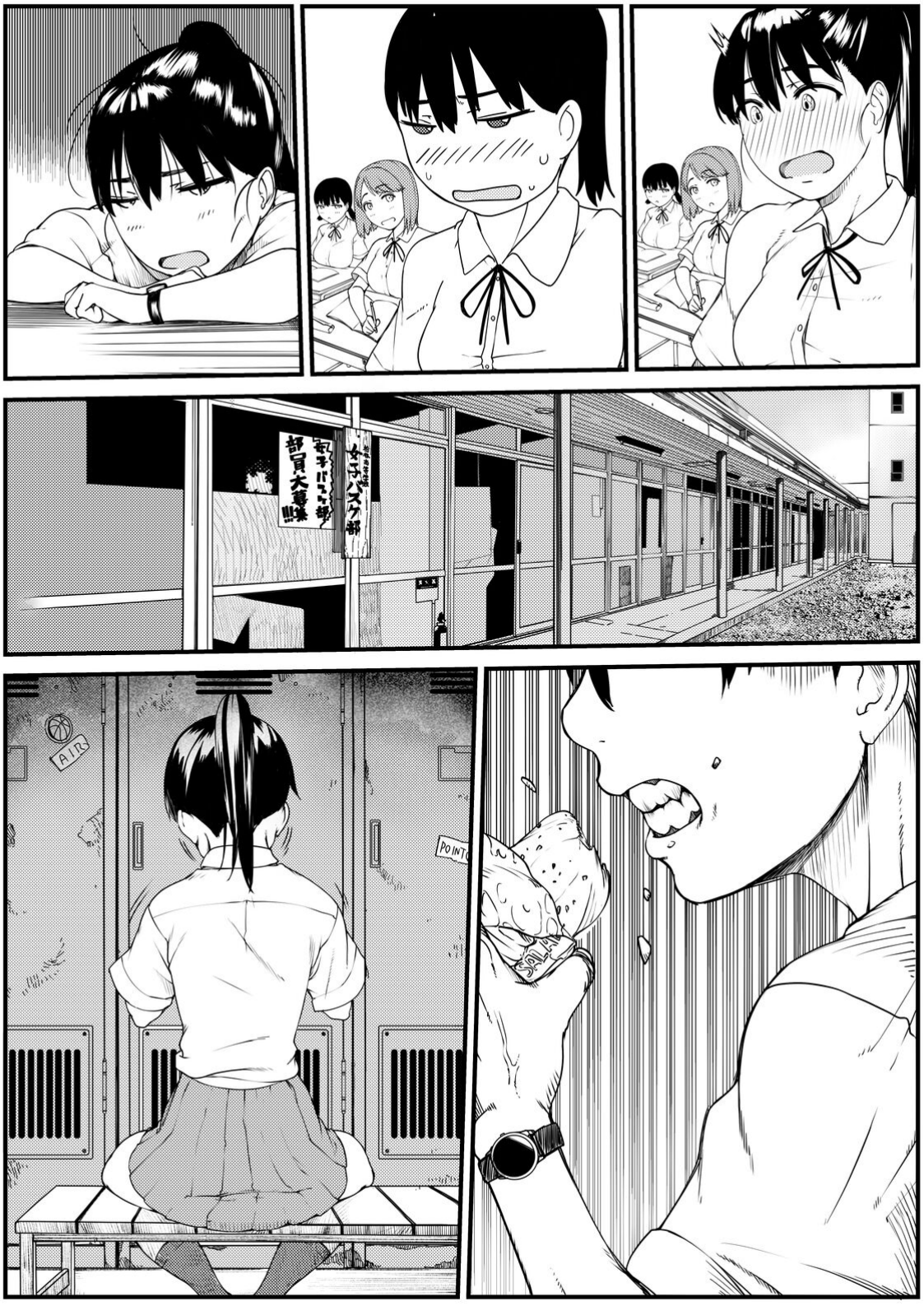
CHICKEN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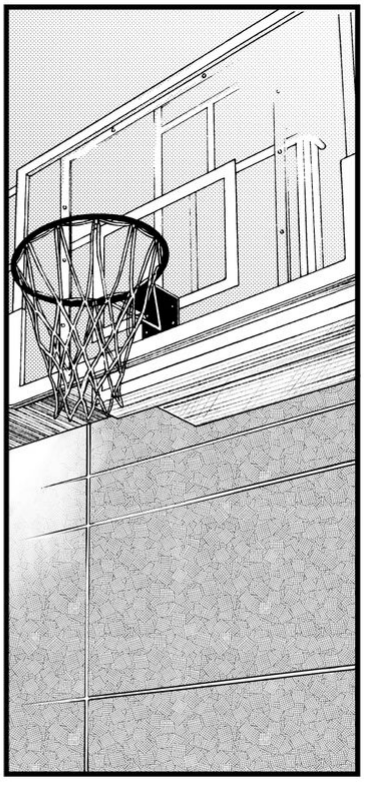
新キバランド部
部員大募集
AIR
POINT

TOILET

6



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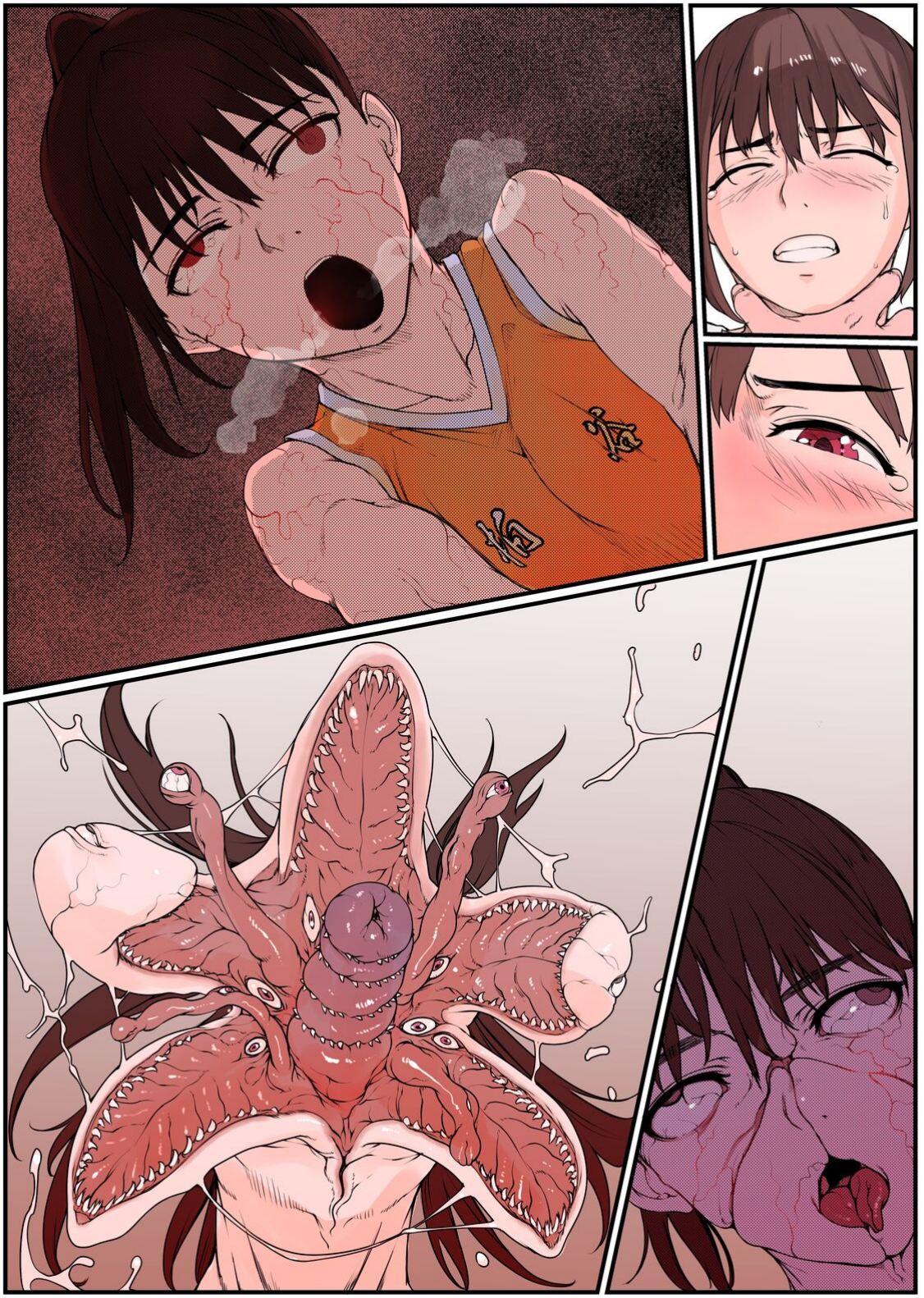

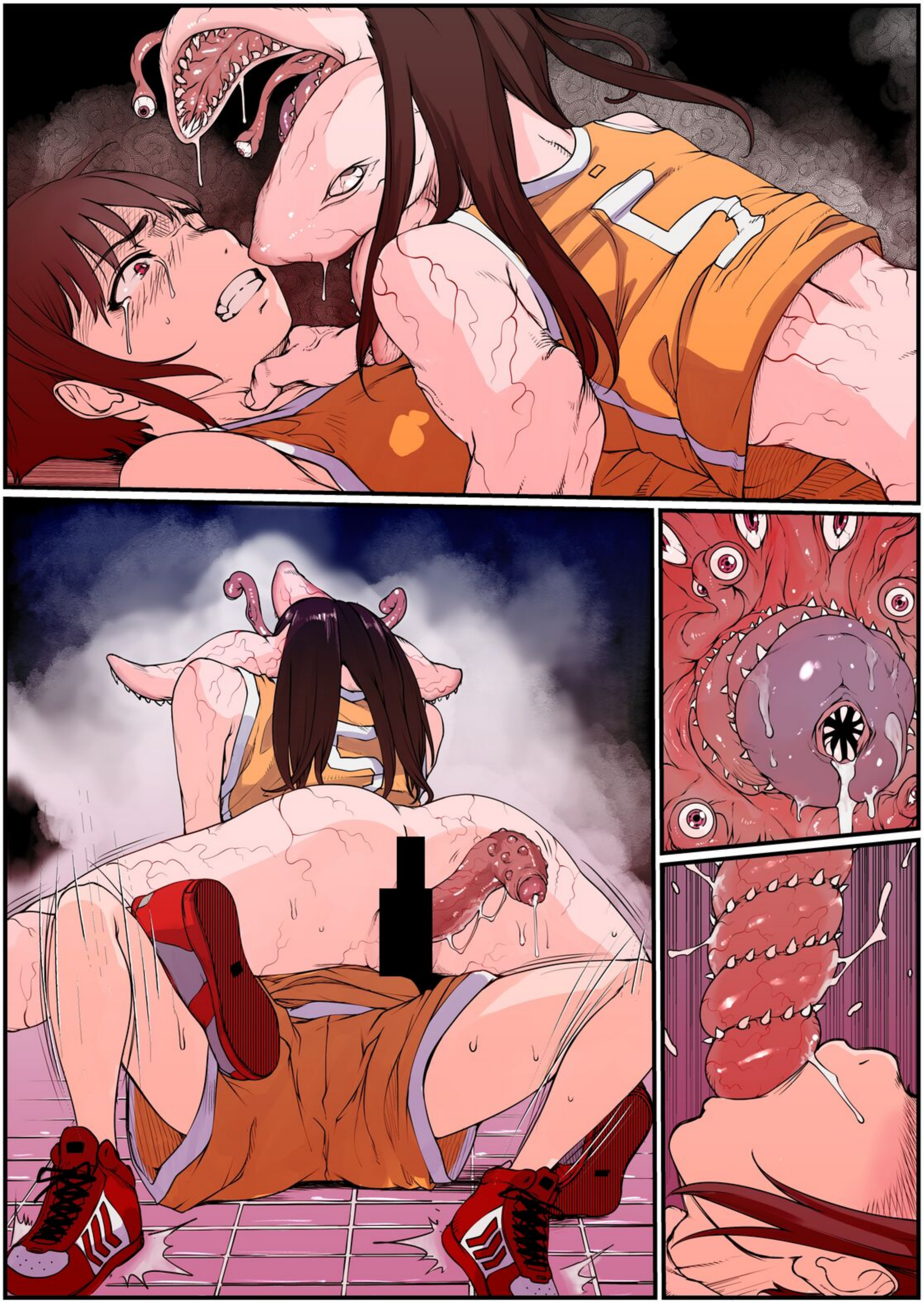

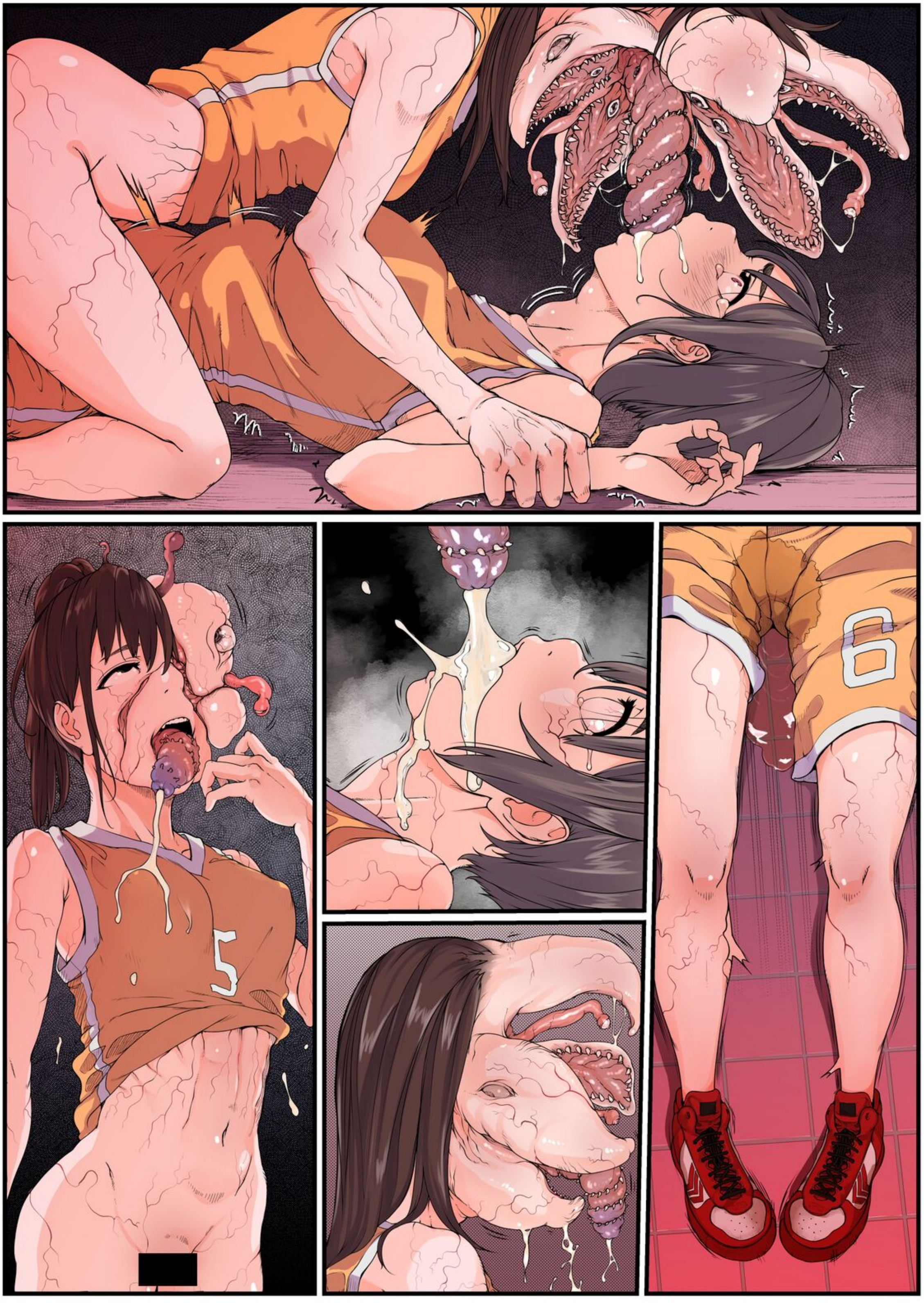

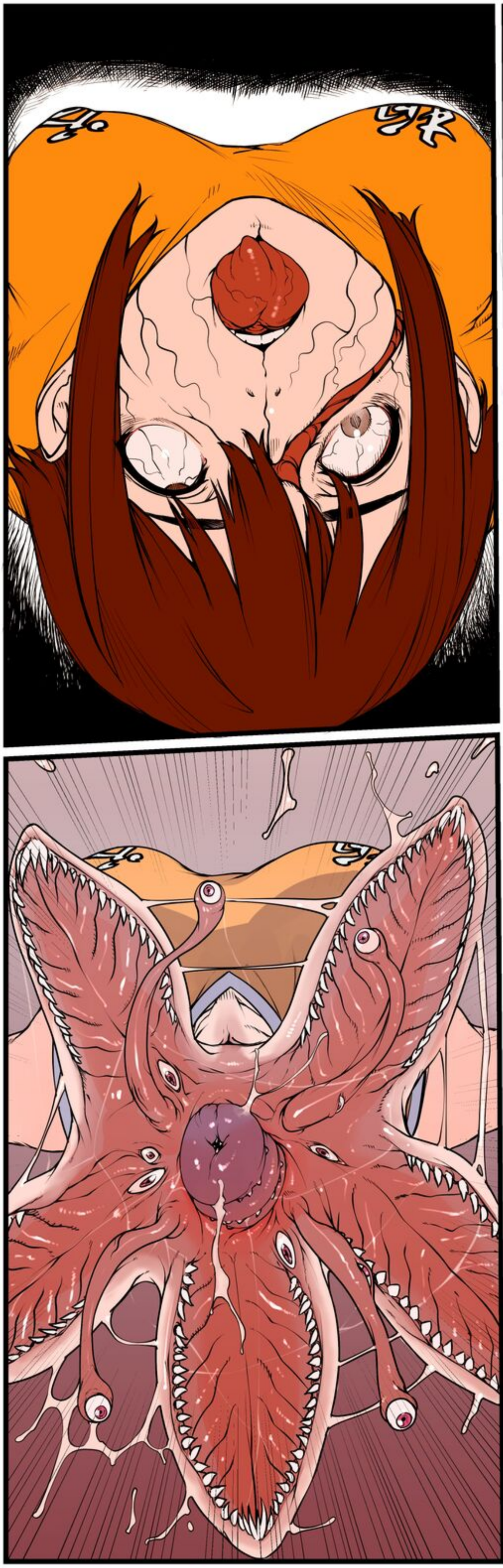

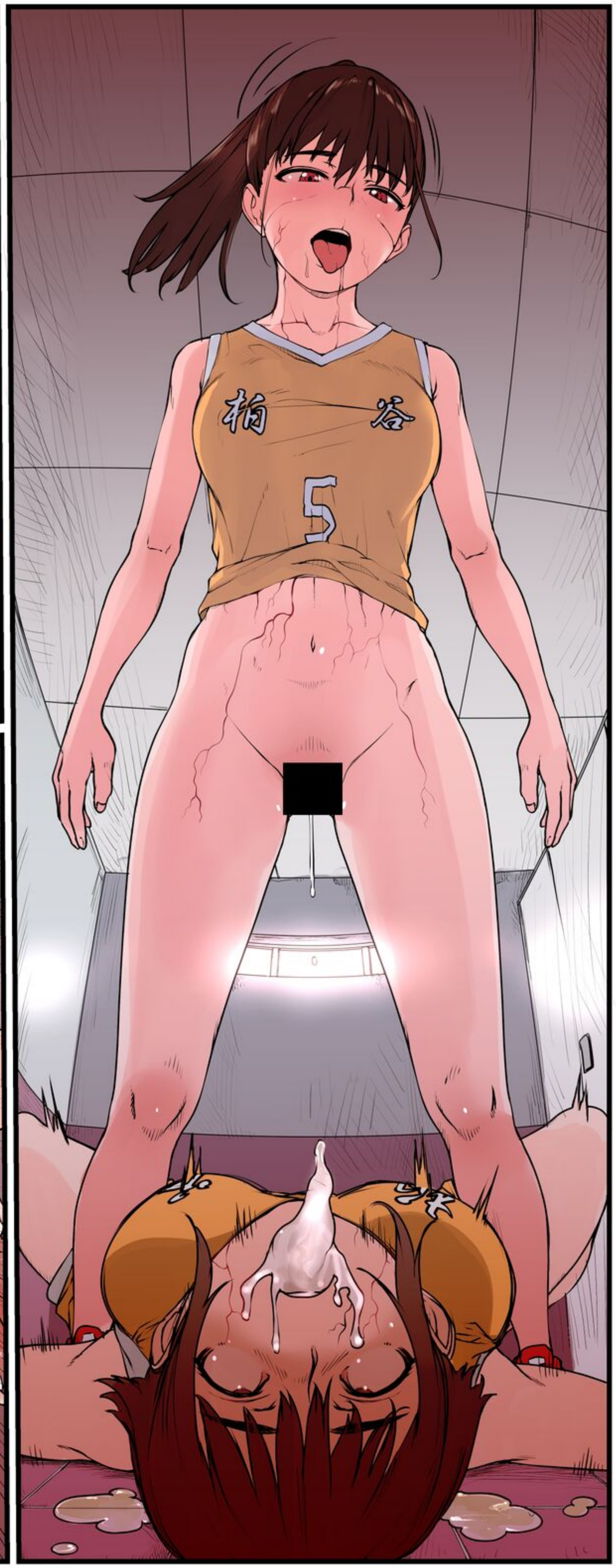
柏谷
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MY - PROTEIN
柏谷高等学校
女子バスケ

KASHIYA PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, A WELL-KNOWN PRIVATE SCHOOL WITH HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS, WHERE MANY STUDENTS END UP ACCEPTED INTO TOP UNIVERSITIES. I HEARD THAT THERE'S A LOT OF CUTE GIRLS IN THAT SCHOOL, AND MY YOUNGER SISTER, MAO, IS ALSO STUDYING THERE. SHE IS QUITE SERIOUS-MINDED EVER SINCE SHE WAS A KID, AND EVEN AS A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL'S BASKETBALL CLUB, SHE STILL WORKS HARD ON HER STUDIES. SHE MIGHT BE QUIET, BUT HER EARNEST AND KIND NATURE MAKES HER WELL-LIKED BY EVERYONE. AS HER OLDER BROTHER, I ALSO FEEL PROUD OF HER.

"ONII-CHAN! BREAKFAST'S READY—!"

IT IS MORNING. RUBBING MY EYES, I GO DOWNSTAIRS AFTER GETTING CALLED BY MAO. IN THE KITCHEN, OUR MOTHER IS SKILLFULLY PREPARING BREAKFAST.

"MORNIN', ONII-CHAN."

MAO CALLS ME OVER WITH A SMILE SO WARM AND COMFORTING.

"MORNIN', MAO. YOU'RE UP EARLY AS ALWAYS, I SEE."

"WE HAVE MORNING TRAINING, AFTER ALL. I GOTTA GET TO SCHOOL EARLY."

"WORKING REALLY HARD, I SEE. JUST DON'T TRY TOO HARD, OKAY?"

"HEHE... JUST HAVING YOU WORRY ABOUT ME LIKE THAT MIGHT ACTUALLY MAKE ME WANT TO TRY A LITTLE HARDER, ONII-CHAN!"

HEARING MAO SAY THAT, IT MAKES ME FEEL HAPPY SOMEHOW. AS HER OLDER BROTHER, SEEING HER SMILE IS THE MOST ENCOURAGING THING FOR ME.

"OH RIGHT. ONII-CHAN, HOW'S CLASS GOING AT UNI?"

"TOUGH, BUT IT'S FUN THAT I GET TO LEARN THINGS THAT I ACTUALLY WANT TO LEARN, I GUESS?"

IT'S HEARTWARMING TO SEE MY SISTER'S INTEREST IN STUDYING. WHILE MAO IS KIND AND QUIET, SHE HAS A FIRM AND RELIABLE PRESENCE AS WELL.

"WISH I COULD JUST GRADUATE AND GET TO UNI QUICKLY..."

"SOMEONE LIKE YOU COULD PROBABLY GET INTO ANY SCHOOL YOU LIKE. YOU DON'T JUST DO CLUB ACTIVITIES, YOU STUDY EVERY NIGHT AS WELL... LIKE, IT'S ACTUALLY ME WHO IS LOOKING AT YOU AND FEELS THE NEED TO WORK HARDER OVER HERE, YOU KNOW?"

MAO SIMPLY CRACKS A SMILE AS WE ENJOY OUR BREAKFAST AFTERWARDS. SURROUNDED BY SUCH A WARM FAMILY ATMOSPHERE, I CAN'T HELP BUT HOPE THAT WE WOULD ALWAYS HAVE THESE SILLY CONVERSATIONS TOGETHER LIKE THIS.

ON MY DAY OFF, A FRIEND OF MINE FROM UNI, TAKUMI, COMES TO VISIT MY HOUSE.
AS WE CHILL IN MY BEDROOM, MAO COMES IN AND BRINGS US SWEETS WITH COLD JUICE ON A TRAY AS USUAL.

"ONII-CHAN, I'M COMING IN, OKAY? YES, TAKUMI-SAN, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO HAVE SOME SWEETS AND JUICE ALSO."

MAO'S VOICE RINGS OUT LIGHT-HEARTEDLY, TAKUMI ALSO THANKS HER BACK WITH A SMILE. AFTER A BRIEF CHAT, MAO EXCUSES HERSELF WITH A NONCHALANT SMILE. TAKUMI ALSO LOOKS LIKE HE IS INTRIGUED BY HOW SHE CARRIES HERSELF.

"YOUR SISTER... MAO-CHAN, WAS IT? SHE'S DANG CUTE, IS SHE NOT? I DIDN'T KNOW SHE'S THE ATTENTIVE TYPE LIKE THAT."

I JUST SMILE AND NOD IN AGREEMENT.

AS TAKUMI DRINKS THE JUICE...

"MY LITTLE SISTER IS MORE TRICKY TO DEAL WITH. SHE'S NEVER BROUGHT SWEETS OVER TO ME LIKE THIS, NOT EVEN ONCE."

"ISN'T THAT ALSO FUN IN ITS OWN WAY?"

I SMILE AWKWARDLY AS I POKE FUN AT HIM.

"NAH, MY SISTER'S A PIECE OF WORK, YOU KNOW? THE GIRL'S JUST NOT CUTE AT ALL... TO HAVE SOMEONE SO CONSIDERATE LIKE MAO-CHAN, IT'S WONDERFUL, YOU KNOW?"

SEEING MAO GET PRAISED LIKE THAT, I FEEL HAPPY AND PROUD AT THE SAME TIME.

(YOU BET. MY SISTER MAO CAN DO ANYTHING)
THAT'S THE KIND OF PRIDE I HAVE DEEP WITHIN.

AFTER WE HAVE OUR FUN, IT IS TIME FOR TAKUMI TO LEAVE. MAO ALSO SHOWS UP TO SEE HIM OFF. AT THE FRONT DOOR, TAKUMI SMILES AS HE SAYS...

"I'LL SWING BY SOME OTHER TIME OKAY? MAO-CHAN!"

"OH JUST SHUT THE HELL UP, YOU...!"

SEEING SUCH AN EXCHANGE FROM US, MAO SIMPLY SMILES.

"HEHE... PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COME BY AND HAVE FUN ANY TIME."

NO MATTER HOW MUCH MY FRIENDS PRAISE MAO, I'M SURE MY OWN LITTLE SISTER WOULD NEVER GET INVOLVED WITH MY FRIENDS BECAUSE OF IT. THAT'S THE KIND OF CONFIDENCE I HAVE, AND THAT'S BECAUSE I HAVE TRUST IN MAO AS A FAMILY MEMBER.

WHEN MAO COMES HOME FROM CLUB ACTIVITIES, I CAN FEEL JUST HOW TIRED SHE IS. WHEN I MEET HER AT THE FRONT DOOR, I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE I CAN'T HELP BUT ASK, "ARE YOU OKAY?"

"GREAT WORK TODAY, MAO. I'M SURE YOU GAVE IT YOU ALL."

MAO SMILES AND NODS, BUT THE EXHAUSTION IS VISIBLE IN HER EYES. HAVING TO SEE HER GO THROUGH SUCH TOUGH TRAINING FOR HER BASKETBALL CLUB, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL WORRIED.

"ARE YOU ALRIGHT? DO YOU FEEL TIRED? NO MATTER HOW NEAR THE INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITION QUALIFYING ROUND IS, I DON'T THINK..."

MAO JUST SMILES SHYLY.

"NO, I'M ALRIGHT. I GUESS I AM FEELING JUST A BIT TIRED, THOUGH."

EVEN SO, AS I AM STILL WORRIED, I DECIDE TO GENTLY STROKE HER HAIR. MAO GIVES ME BACK A HAPPY SMILE AFTERWARDS.

"THANK YOU AS ALWAYS, ONII-CHAN."

"ANYWAY, GREAT WORK TODAY. HOWEVER, DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT TRYING TOO HARD, OKAY? IT'S IMPORTANT TO MANAGE YOUR PHYSICAL CONDITION AS WELL."

MAO NODS THEN REPLIES TO ME...

"SURE, I GET IT. BUT, IT'S JUST THAT CLUB ACTIVITIES ARE SO FUN. THAT'S WHY I CAN TRY MY BEST."

HER SINCERE WORDS MAKE ME FEEL JUST HOW MUCH MY LITTLE SISTER HAS GROWN. EVEN AS A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL, MAO IS STILL AS KIND AND ADMIRABLE AS EVER. FEELING A GENTLE WARMTH INSIDE, I CONTINUE TO GENTLY PAT HER HEAD.

"SEEING YOU WORK SO HARD WARMS MY HEART SO MUCH. JUST KNOW THAT I'M ALWAYS HERE CHEERING YOU ON, OKAY?"

MAO SMILES CHEERFULLY. THE GENTLE EXPRESSION ON HER FACE SEEMS TO HAVE EVEN LIFTED UP THE SLIGHTLY GLOOMY ATMOSPHERE. SUCH A POSITIVE, FORWARD-LOOKING ATTITUDE IS ONE OF MAO'S BEST QUALITIES.

ON THE UNI CAMPUS, ME AND MY FRIEND TAKUMI ARE CHILLING IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA DURING LUNCH BREAK. I TRY TO CASUALLY BRING UP THE TOPIC OF HIS LITTLE SISTER, WHO WE USED TO TALK ABOUT BEFORE.

"THE LITTLE SISTER YOU TOLD ME ABOUT LAST TIME... HOW'S SHE DOING RECENTLY?"

I ASK HIM THAT QUESTION WITH GREAT INTEREST.
TAKUMI ALSO SMILES CHEERFULLY AND, AS IF TO SAY, "I'M GLAD YOU ASKED," BEGINS TO TALK AS WELL.

"RIGHT. COME TO THINK OF IT, MY SIS'S CHANGED RECENTLY, MAN. SHE USED TO BE KINDA UNFRIENDLY, BUT LATELY, SHE'S BECOME REALLY KIND. I EVEN FEEL LIKE SHE'S LOOKING KINDA CUTE NOW."

"I SEE WHAT'S GOING ON. THAT'S A GOOD THING TO HAPPEN, IS IT NOT? ALTHOUGH, YOU SAY SHE'S LOOKING CUTER NOW... YOU'RE SURE YOUR VIEW OF HER DIDN'T JUST CHANGE PURELY BECAUSE SHE'S NOW TREATING YOU A BIT BETTER?"

TO THAT, TAKUMI DISAGREES, WHILE SHAKING HIS HEAD...

"NAH NAH I'M TELLING YOU, SHE'S LIKE ACTUALLY, LEGIT CUTE NOW. HOW TO SAY IT, SHE'S BECOME PRETTIER NOW, FOR ONE THING, I GUESS...? SHE'S ALSO BEEN SO MUCH NICER TO ME. ALTHOUGH IT FELT A BIT ODD AT FIRST, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A BAD THING OR ANYTHING EITHER. I EVEN FEEL LIKE THIS KIND OF CHANGE IN HER IS ACTUALLY MAKING ME HAPPY."

"WELL, IT'S GOOD THAT IT HAPPENED, IS IT NOT? IT'S WHOLESOME TO SEE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS CHANGE FOR THE BETTER."

I CRACK A SMILE AS I IMAGINE MY OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH MAO. TAKUMI LOOKS A BIT LIKE HE IS IN SOME DEEP THOUGHT, THEN SAYS...

"YOU'RE RIGHT. I ALSO FIND IT REFRESHING TO SEE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US SIBLINGS CHANGE LIKE THIS. I FEEL HAPPY."

I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT MY FRIEND'S FAMILY ATMOSPHERE HAS IMPROVED, TAKUMI HIMSELF SEEMS LIKE HE IS IN A BRIGHTER MOOD AS WELL. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MANY GLOOMY TOPICS IN THE WORLD, BEING ABLE TO FIND SMALL MOMENTS OF HAPPINESS LIKE THIS IS WHAT BRINGS US A SENSE OF RELIEF.

ON A WEEKDAY EVENING JUST AFTER 8 P.M., THE SOUND OF THE FRONT DOOR OPENING ECHOES THROUGH OUR HOUSE. AS I GO AND WELCOME MAO BACK, I IMMEDIATELY FEEL LIKE THERE IS SOMETHING UP WITH HER.

"WELCOME HOME. SOMEONE'S LOOKING KINDA...LIVELY TODAY?"

"THANKS. Y-YOU THINK SO? I GUESS I MIGHT HAVE JUST GAINED QUITE A LOT OF STAMINA..."

LATELY, SHE SEEMS REALLY EXHAUSTED FROM ALL THE PRACTICE FOR THE UPCOMING INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITION QUALIFYING ROUND. I THOUGHT ABOUT SUPPORTING MY LITTLE SISTER IN MY OWN WAY, BUT MAYBE IT'S HER OWN HARD WORK THAT'S FINALLY PAID OFF INSTEAD.

"BY THE WAY, YOU CAME HOME LATE TODAY BECAUSE YOU HAD TO DO SOME SPECIAL TRAINING WITH YOUR SENIOR, CORRECT?"

SHE HAD ALREADY LET ME KNOW BEFOREHAND THAT SHE'D BE COMING HOME LATE BECAUSE OF SOME EXTRA TRAINING. THE FACT THAT MAO WOULD ACTUALLY COMMUNICATE THESE SORTS OF THINGS WITH ME SO WILLINGLY... THAT'S ANOTHER ONE OF HER BEST QUALITIES, AND SURELY THE SENIOR WHO STAYED WITH HER WOULD ALSO VALUE HER FOR THAT.

"YUP YUP. THANKS TO THAT, I ENDED UP GETTING BACK LATE... I'M SO, SO SORRY."

"IT'S ALRIGHT, DON'T APOLOGIZE. BY THE WAY, YOU'RE LOOKING REALLY LIVELY, WHAT DID YOU GIRLS DO FOR THE SPECIAL TRAINING?"

I'M JUST CASUALLY ASKING MAO A QUESTION, BUT FOR A MOMENT, HER EXPRESSION SHIFTS SLIGHTLY, BEFORE SHE VERY QUICKLY RETURNS TO ME WITH A SMILE. AS SHE GIVES ME THAT SMILE, I DO NOTICE SOMETHING UNUSUAL IN HER PUPILS. FOR JUST A BRIEF SECOND, I FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO GET SUCKED INTO HER GAZE. HOWEVER, THAT FEELING ALSO VERY QUICKLY FADES AWAY.

"WELL, JUST SOME TRAINING, YOU KNOW?"

"I SEE... BUT, I SWEAR SOMEHOW YOU LOOK EXTRA ENERGETIC TODAY."

THOUGH I STRUGGLE TO FIND THE RIGHT WORDS, I CAN CLEARLY SENSE A CHANGE IN MAO. FROM HER BEHAVIORS TO EXPRESSIONS... TO SAY SHE'S LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON...WOULD BE AN EXAGGERATION, BUT IT IS DEFINITELY SOMEWHERE NEAR THAT EXTENT.

"YOU'RE REALLY SURE YOU'RE OKAY?"

AS THE QUESTION MARK KEEPS FLOATING AROUND DEEP WITHIN ME, MAO SIMPLY NODS AND SAYS...

"I'M OKAY. YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY. BUT, I FEEL HAPPY THAT YOU ARE WORRYING ABOUT ME LIKE THIS."

IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING BOTH RESERVED AND UNRESERVED FLOATING AROUND HER VOICE AND DEMEANOR. HOWEVER, THE WAY SHE SMILES WHEN SHE SEES HER OLDER BROTHER'S WORRIED EXPRESSION... INDEED, THAT IS STILL THE USUAL MAO.

THE NEXT DAY, MAO LOOKS FULL OF ENERGY ONCE AGAIN. ALTHOUGH I DO FEEL A HINT OF UNEASE ABOUT HER ENERGY LEVEL, I CHOOSE TO PRIORITIZE OUR BOND AS SIBLINGS, AND QUIETLY WATCH OVER HER CHANGES INSTEAD.

EVER SINCE THAT DAY, MAO HAS BECOME EVEN MORE ENERGETIC. SHE HAS ALWAYS HAD A BRIGHT PERSONALITY, BUT LATELY, SHE SEEMS EVEN MORE LIVELY THAN EVER. EVEN WHEN SHE COMES HOME FROM CLUB ACTIVITIES, SHE NEVER SHOWS ANY SIGNS OF BEING ALL THAT TIRED.
AMIDST ALL THIS, OTHER CHANGES ALSO BEGIN TO APPEAR.
SOMETIMES SHE WOULD STARE AT OUR MOTHER PREPARING DINNER. ACTUALLY, SHE WOULD START SECRETLY STARING AT ALL THE MEAT AND EGGS LAID OUT IN THE KITCHEN, TO BE MORE PRECISE. THEN, SHE WOULD ALSO, WITH SUCH AN ODD EXPRESSION, MAKE SOME SOUNDS DOWN HER THROAT AS IF TRYING TO HOLD BACK SOMETHING. WHILE I DO WONDER WHETHER IT IS A SIGN OF SOMETHING, I JUST CAN'T MUSTER UP THE COURAGE TO ASK HER DIRECTLY ABOUT IT.

"MAO, HOW WAS YOUR DAY TODAY?"

"WELL, NOTHING PARTICULARLY OUT OF THE ORDINARY, YOU KNOW?"

MAO ANSWERS ME WITH A SMILE ON HER FACE. HOWEVER, I FEEL LIKE SHE IS HIDING SOMETHING, AND THUS COMES THIS VAGUE SENSE OF UNEASE IN MY HEART. BUT, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT IT IS EITHER, SO AN AWKWARD ATMOSPHERE STARTS SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE ROOM.

AS PREPARATIONS FOR DINNER BEGIN, THE AROMA OF ALL THE DISHES PREPARED BY OUR MOTHER SPREADS THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE. MAO'S EYES LIGHT UP, SHE SEEMS JUST A BIT AROUSED BY IT, EVEN. HOWEVER, OUR MOTHER AND FATHER DON'T READ TOO MUCH INTO IT, OR RATHER, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THEY NOTICE ANYTHING AT ALL. MEANWHILE, I'M THE ONLY ONE SITTING THERE AT THE TABLE, FEELING ALL PERPLEXED AND UNABLE TO SAY A THING.

WHEN OUR MOTHER BRINGS OUT THE DISHES, MAO'S EYES SPARKLE AS SHE EXCITEDLY SAYS, "IT LOOKS SO DELICIOUS!" AND THEN, DURING OUR MEAL, VERY INDISCRIMINATELY, SHE STARTS DEVOURING ALL THE KARAAGE AND TAMAGOYAKI. AND JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT, I FEEL LIKE SHE BARELY EVEN CHEWS AT ALL.

"MAO, YOU LOVE MEAT THAT MUCH?"

AS I ASK, MAO SMILES CHEERFULLY AND REPLIES...

"YUP, ESPECIALLY RECENTLY. DELICIOUS, ISN'T IT?"

OUR FAMILY SIMPLY SMILES AT THOSE WORDS AND CONTINUES EATING. OUR MOTHER EVEN RESPONDS WITH A SMILE, SAYING, "ANYTHING AS LONG AS YOU'RE HEALTHY." HOWEVER, I'M STILL THERE, BEING LEFT EVER SO CONFUSED. IN MY HEART, I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT MAO'S APPETITE OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS. BUT CONSIDERING THAT SHE'S HAD TO TRAIN REALLY HARD FOR HER CLUB ACTIVITIES, I TRY TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT IT'S ALL PROBABLY JUST TO BUILD UP HER STAMINA.

"MAO, TRAINING WITH THE BASKETBALL TEAM IS STILL AS TOUGH AS EVER, I SEE."

AS I START THE CONVERSATION, MAO SIMPLY NODS.

"YUP. BUT IT'S FUN. I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT'S TOUGH AT ALL, YOU KNOW?"

THOSE WORDS MANAGE TO MAKE ME FEEL RELIEVED. I FEEL THAT, AS LONG AS SHE'S HAVING FUN, ALL WILL BE FINE.

LATE AT NIGHT, I WAKE UP FROM SOME NORMAL DREAM, HEAD TO THE DARK DINING ROOM TO DRINK SOME WATER. THE CREAKING SOUND AGAINST THE FLOOR ECHOES THROUGH THE QUIET NIGHT. BUT THEN, I HEAR SOME OTHER SOUNDS COMING FROM THE KITCHEN. IT SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE ELSE WAS ALREADY THERE BEFORE ME. AS I QUIETLY MAKE MY MOVE FORWARD, I SEE MAO JUST STANDING THERE IN ONE PLACE, ILLUMINATED BY THE MOONLIGHT SHINING IN. SHE'S JUST STANDING THERE BY THE KITCHEN COUNTER, HOLDING IN HER HAND THE SHAKER SHE'S BEEN USING IN HER CLUB ACTIVITIES. SHE BRINGS IT TO HER MOUTH AND BEGINS CHUGGING IT DOWN, MAKING SOME INCREDIBLY VIOLENT GULPING SOUND AT THAT. FOR SOME REASON, I CAN ONLY HIDE IN THE SHADOWS AS I WATCH. JUST AS SHE FINISHES DRINKING, MAO...

"BURRRRRRP!"

...LETS OUT A HUGE BURP. I HAVE NEVER SEEN HER LIKE THAT BEFORE. EVEN AS I RAISE MY EYEBROWS, I CAN ONLY CONTINUE STARING AT THE SIGHT.

"MMM, THAT WAS DELICIOUS."

MUTTERING THAT TO HERSELF, SHE SMILES, LOOKING FULLY SATISFIED, THEN PROCEEDS TO RINSE OUT THE SHAKER AND PUT IT NEXT TO THE SINK. AFTERWARDS, SHE LEAVES THE KITCHEN AND HEADS BACK TO HER ROOM.

"...W-WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?"

AS I APPROACH THE KITCHEN, I SEE THE SHAKER, WHICH, AS I SUSPECT, WAS CONTAINING SOME PROTEIN POWDER. I WONDER WHY SHE HAD TO DRINK IT AT SUCH A LATE HOUR, BUT WITH MY OWN DROWSINESS IN MIND, I DECIDE NOT TO THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT IT. I REPLENISH MY HYDRATION, QUICKLY RETURN TO MY ROOM AND GO BACK TO SLEEP.

NEXT MORNING, AS I HAVE BREAKFAST, THE SCENE FROM THAT PREVIOUS NIGHT FLASHES BACK BEFORE MY EYES. GLANCING AT THE SINK, I SEE THAT SAME SHAKER FROM LAST NIGHT SITTING THERE BY ITSELF, ALL WASHED.

"WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT, I WONDER...?"

WITH ALL THOSE QUESTIONS RISING IN MY MIND, A CHILL RUNS DOWN MY SPINE. THE SMILE ON MAO'S FACE, THE WAY SHE JUST CHUGGED DOWN THAT DRINK, THE OVER-THE-TOP BURP AS WELL? AS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THESE INCIDENTS COME TOGETHER, A FEELING OF UNEASE BEGINS TO SPROUT FROM DEEP WITHIN MY HEART.

"MORNIN'! ONII-CHAN!"

"O-OH YEAH...! MORNIN'."

MAO APPEARS CHEERFUL AS USUAL. MY USUAL LITTLE SISTER, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY. SEEING HER LIKE THAT MANAGES TO MAKE THE UNEASE I FEEL FROM WHEN I WAS STILL HALF-ASLEEP LAST NIGHT FADE AWAY.

IN THE AFTERNOON ON MY DAY OFF, I'M ALONE IN MY ROOM WITH MY OWN THOUGHTS, LOOKING BACK ON MAO'S BEHAVIORS OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS. MAYBE BECAUSE SHE'S GOTTEN USED TO CLUB ACTIVITIES, SHE NOW SHOWS LESS FATIGUE AND, AS A RESULT, HAS ALSO DEVELOPED A STRONGER APPETITE. SHE WOULD ALSO SOMETIMES DRINK PROTEIN SHAKES AT HOME AND, MAYBE AS A RESULT, BURP WITHOUT FEELING ANY EMBARRASSMENT AT ALL.
I FEEL CONCERNED, SO I END UP GOING STRAIGHT TO TAKUMI AND TRY TALKING TO HIM ABOUT IT. THAT'S WHEN...

"HUH? MAO-CHAN BURPING, YOU SAY?"

"SHE WAS! NOT SURE IF IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S BEEN WORKING HARD WITH HER CLUB ACTIVITIES, BUT SHE'S NOW DRINKING LIKE, A LOT OF PROTEIN AND ALL THAT, YOU KNOW? AND SHE TENDS TO LET OUT QUITE SOME VIOLENT BURPS AFTERWARDS AS WELL."

IN MY OWN WAY, I ALSO TRY TO COME UP WITH SOME REASONS TO JUSTIFY MAO'S BEHAVIORS. HOWEVER, THE FACT REMAINS THAT I AM STILL FEELING UNEASY ABOUT ALL THIS. BUT THEN, TAKUMI, AS IF JUST REMEMBERING SOMETHING, BEGINS TO TALK...

"AAH— SAME DEAL WITH MY SIS, YOU KNOW? I WAS CURIOUS, SO I WENT AND ASKED WHAT WAS UP WITH HER AND EVERYTHING..."

IT'S SURPRISING FOR ME TO HEAR THAT IT IS THE SAME FOR TAKUMI'S SISTER, AS WELL AS HIM ASKING HER SO DIRECTLY ABOUT IT.

"IT SEEMS LIKE SOME FAMOUS GIRL INFLUENCERS ARE DOING IT. I TRIED GIVING IT A LOOK AND... IT'S THAT SABASABA GROUP OR SOMETHING? I JUST DON'T GET THE APPEAL, BUT APPARENTLY, IT'S QUITE TRENDY AMONG GIRLS THESE DAYS TO JUST NOT HIDE THINGS LIKE THAT. I GUESS IT'S THE SAME AROUND MAO-CHAN?"

THAT'S THE REASON THAT TAKUMI GIVES ME. WHILE I STILL DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND THE TREND, IT DOES MAKE SENSE. HE THEN ADDS...

"...WELL, JUST DON'T PRY TOO MUCH OR GO TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT IT. FOR MAO-CHAN'S SAKE AS WELL, YOU KNOW?"

TAKUMI IS RIGHT TO SAY THAT. NO MATTER HOW CLOSE WE ARE TO EACH OTHER, WE SHOULD NEVER INTERFERE TOO MUCH. SOMETIMES I STILL FORGET THAT SHE IS STILL AT THAT AGE AFTER ALL.

WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT MAO HAS STARTED TO SHOW SOME CHANGES, WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT SHE IS NOW BRIGHTER, HAS MORE ENERGY AND SEEMS TO BE HAVING FUN EVERY DAY. JUST REMEMBERING THAT ABOUT HER, I START TO FEEL KIND OF STUPID FOR WORRYING ABOUT SUCH TRIVIAL MATTERS. THAT IS WHEN I HEAR A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

"HEY, ONII-CHAN. CAN I HAVE A MINUTE?"

"YEAH."

AS I RESPOND, MAO WALKS IN, ALL DRESSED UP AT THAT. SHE IS WEARING A RATHER CUTE OUTFIT, AND IT SEEMS LIKE SHE HAS PUT SOME EXTRA EFFORT INTO HER MAKEUP AS WELL. AS I WITNESS SUCH A SCENE...

(I NEVER KNEW MAO HAD SUCH A FINE FIGURE...)

ALTHOUGH WE'RE FAMILY, I CAN RARELY EVER STARE AT MY OWN SISTER'S BODY LIKE THIS. HOWEVER, AS I TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, I REALIZE THAT HER BODY, TONED FROM PLAYING BASKETBALL SINCE HIGH SCHOOL, IS NO LONGER JUST THAT OF MY BABY LITTLE SISTER, BUT ALSO STARTS SHOWING GLIMPSES OF A YOUNG LADY.

"H-HOW...DO I LOOK?"

IT'S JUST THAT, THE WAY SHE JUST SHYLY ASKS HER QUESTION LIKE THAT... SHE STILL REMINDS ME OF THE EXACT BABY LITTLE SISTER THAT I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN.

"LOOKS GOOD ON YOU. WHAT'S UP?"

"WELL, A SENIOR OF MINE TOLD ME THAT I WOULD LOOK GOOD IF I START DRESSING UP LIKE THIS."

I'VE HEARD A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT THE SENIOR GIRL IN HER CLUB. IT DOES SEEM LIKE SHE ALSO CARES ABOUT MAO, AND NOT JUST WHEN IT COMES TO BASKETBALL, EITHER. SHE ALSO TAKES CARE OF MAO IN WAYS THAT I, AS A MAN, CANNOT. SHE DOES SEEM LIKE A STRICT PERSON, BUT I AM GRATEFUL TO HER.

"THAT'S COOL. IF YOU WEREN'T IN AN ALL-GIRLS' SCHOOL, SOME GUY FROM YOUR CLASS MIGHT HAVE CONFESSED HIS LOVE TO YOU BY NOW."

"HUHH!? DON'T BE WEIRD! ...HEHE!"

MAO IS SO CUTE WHEN SHE HAS THAT SLIGHTLY DISPLEASED BUT GENERALLY HAPPY EXPRESSION ON HER FACE.

"OH AND, ARE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE TODAY?"

"YUP. I'M GOING TO GRAB SOME LUNCH WITH THAT SENIOR OF MINE."

"I SEE. HAVE A GOOD TIME."

IT'S A WARM AND SUNNY AFTERNOON. SEEING MAO LOOK SO HAPPY MAKES ME FORGET ABOUT ALL THOSE STRANGE THINGS THAT'VE BEEN ON MY MIND BEFORE THAT.

たった一匹から始まる侵蝕

The Invasion was started by “Parasite”

# 蝕まれた花園

## -Parasite School-

SCENARIO: SUIREN　ART: KOZUKI KANNA

16 PAGES TOTAL (FIRST HALF: MONOCHROME, SECOND HALF: COLORED)

第1話

CHAPTER 1

# 蝕まれた花園

## -Parasite School-

16 PAGES TOTAL (FIRST HALF: MONOCHROME, SECOND HALF: COLORED)

# SASAYAMA MIKI

BORN ON APRIL 8TH, SHE'S A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AND THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL'S BASKETBALL CLUB. SHE HAS A BRIGHT, ENERGETIC PERSONALITY WITH EXCEPTIONAL ATHLETIC ABILITIES. SHE POSSESSES LEADERSHIP SKILLS THAT BRING OTHERS TOGETHER. SHE HAS NO INTEREST IN ROMANCE AND HAS NEVER HAD A BOYFRIEND.
SHE'S AN ONLY CHILD.

# IMURA MAO

BORN ON AUGUST 21ST, SHE'S A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AND A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL'S BASKETBALL CLUB. SHE HAS A GENTLE AND SERIOUS PERSONALITY. SHE'S TOP OF HER CLASS ACADEMICALLY, THOUGH NOT THAT AMAZINGLY ATHLETIC. HOWEVER, SHE DEMONSTRATES STRONG WORK RATE AND DEDICATION TO CLUB ACTIVITIES.
SHE HAS ONE OLDER BROTHER.

# KASHIYA PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

A PRIVATE ALL-GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL IN CHIBA PREFECTURE. IT IS KNOWN FOR PRODUCING A GREAT NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO PASS ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES. THE SCHOOL'S REGULATIONS ARE KEPT TO A MINIMUM AND ENTRUSTED TO THE STUDENTS' OWN SENSE OF GOODNESS.
THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS ARE WELL-MAINTAINED. VARIOUS ROOMS, SUCH AS AUDIOVISUAL ROOM, ARE A GIVEN. NOT ONLY THAT, THE SCHOOL'S ALSO WELL-EQUIPPED WITH A NUMBER OF FACILITIES SUCH AS A GYMNASIUM, POOL, AND CLUB BUILDING. DUE TO SUCH A VARIETY OF ATTRACTIVE FEATURES, A LARGE NUMBER OF EXAMINEES GATHER THERE EVERY YEAR.
EVERY YEAR IN AUTUMN, THERE IS AN EVENT CALLED THE KASHIYA FESTIVAL, DURING WHICH THE SPORTS FESTIVAL AND THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL ARE HELD ON CONSECUTIVE DAYS.

CHAPTER 2
PRODUCTION
CONFIRMED

# 第２話
# 製作決定！

# 蝕まれた花園
## -Parasite School-